

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 AID-20 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03

HEW-08 SWF-02 SPM-01 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /191 W

----- 021557

R 221543Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4560

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BG, GW

SUBJECT: FRG DEVELOPMENT AID AND FLOOD RELIEF

ASSISTANCE FOR BANGLADESH

REF: A. STATE 178845

1. FRG OFFICIALS HAVE BRIEFED US ON AMOUNTS AND TYPES
OF ASSISTANCE THEY ARE PROVIDING BANGLADESH FOR FLOOD
RELIEF.

A. THE FRG AID MINISTRY GRANTED BANGLADESH A
DM15 MILLION COMMODITY CREDIT. THIS IS IN ADDITION
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TO THE REGULAR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE, WHICH IS

SCHEDULED TO REACH DM90 MILLION THIS YEAR. THE DM15 MILLION IS BEING GRANTED UNDER IDA CONDITIONS. THE AID MINISTRY'S OPERATIONAL ARM, THE KREDITANSTALT FUER WIEDERAUFBAU (KFW) IN FRANKFURT, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSING THE FUNDS UPON RECEIVING RECEIPTS FROM THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT.

B. THE FRG IS PREPARING TO DELIVER, IN OCTOBER, 30,000 TONS OF WHEAT PREVIOUSLY CONTRACTED FOR BY BANGLADESH. ALTHOUGH IT IS WHEAT, NOT FEED GRAINS, WE ASSUME THIS IS THE DELIVERY REFERRED TO IN REFTEL A. WE WERE TOLD THAT WHILE THIS WHEAT IS AN FRG BILATERAL CONTRIBUTION, IT IS PART OF ITS EC COMMITMENT.

C. THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR IS PROVIDING 2 1/2 TONS OF EMERGENCY RATIONS AND HAS CONTRACTED THROUGH A PROTESTANT RELIEF ORGANIZATION IN NEW DELHI TO PURCHASE DM150,000 OF COTTON MATERIAL.

D. FRG PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ALSO AIRLIFTED FOOD TO BANGLADESH BUT THE MINISTRIES TELL US THEY HAVE NO FIRM FIGURES ON AMOUNTS, ALTHOUGH IT IS BELIEVED TO BE INSIGNIFICANT.

2. FUHRMAN OF THE FRG AID MINISTRY ALSO TOLD US THAT BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH BANGLADESH OVER NEXT YEAR'S AID LEVELS AND RESCHEDULING OF PRESENT DEBTS ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 23. HE SAID THE FRG PLANS TO DISCUSS BOTH TOPICS SIMULTANEOUSLY AND HOPES TO HAVE THE TWO TOPICS CONNECTED SINCE HE BELIEVES IT WILL BE A MEANS TO INSURE BANGLADESH REPAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING DEBTS. ON THE RELATED QUESTION OF FORMING A BANGLADESH CONSORTIUM, FUHRMAN HAD NO NEW INFORMATION OTHER THAN TO SAY IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT BANGLADESH WANTED ALL ARAB OIL PRODUCERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SAUDI ARABIA AND LIBYA WHO HAVE SOME UNSPECIFIED LONG STANDING DISAGREEMENT WITH BANGLADESH, TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONSORTIUM.

3. COMMENT. THERE IS A NOTICEABLE COOLNESS TOWARD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANGLADESH IN BOTH THE FRG AID AND INTERIOR MINISTRIES. THE FEELING IS THAT ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED TO BANGLADESH CONTINUES TO BE DIVERTED INTO ILLEGAL CHANNELS. IN ADDITION, THE FLOODS OCCUR EVERY YEAR WITH THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT DOING NOTHING IN BETWEEN FLOODS TO MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACT. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS MARKED PUBLIC APATHY IN THE FRG TOWARD THE PRESENT DISASTER WITH THE PRIVATE

RELIEF AGENCIES HAVING VIRTUALLY NO SUCCESS IN RAISING
FUNDS THROUGH PUBLIC APPEALS.
CASH

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